

Reserve

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PMA FARM NEWS

April 28, 1950

SETTLEMENT OF DAMAGED LOAN-GRAIN CLARIFIED: Farmers with 1949 grain stored under Government loans got some idea of how settlement will be made where grain has deteriorated below eligible grade in a statement made today by _____, chairman of the _____ County Production and Marketing Committee.

In cases where the grain under loan has deteriorated and at the time of delivery is below the lowest grade for which discounts have been established, Mr. _____ said that the following will be the method of determining the settlement rate:

- (1) The Government will determine at time of delivery the difference between the market price for the grade placed under loan and the market price of the grain delivered; and
- (2) This difference will be deducted from the support rate for the grade of the commodity placed under loan.

The resulting figure will be the settlement rate.

County PMA offices are in position to answer any questions farmers may have about commodity loans. Most of the 1949 grain loans mature on April 30. Loans must be repaid or else arrangements must be made to reseed the crop before that time if producers do not wish to deliver their grain in payment of their loans.

WHY WASTE SOIL ON SURPLUSES? Surpluses not only affect farm prices but they use up valuable soil fertility in the production of commodities for which there is no market.

That briefly is the way _____, chairman of the _____ county PMA committee, sums up the problem of excess production. He believes that using up soil fertility in the production of commodities which cannot be used is just as wasteful as though it had been carried away by water or wind.

Farmers of _____ should make adjustments in their production to fit the needs of the market instead of depending on the government to take the excess production, _____ said.

By seeding the land taken out of allotment crops into grass and legumes, farmers will be carrying out one of the best conservation practices and at the same time will be helping to balance production to market needs. The grass and legumes hold the soil and add to the organic matter and humus.

Reserves can be built up in the soil for increased production if and when it is needed in the future. With increasing population and a limited amount of land which can be used economically to produce food, there is need for increasing the reserves in the soil.

Shifting production from allotment crops to other crops which can be expected to reach surplus volume neither conserves the soil nor helps to bring about the

necessary adjustment in production.

_____ points out that the Agricultural Conservation Program provides assistance for a number of conservation practices having to do with the seeding and improving of stands of grass and legumes. He urged farmers of _____ county to check with the county PMA committee on such practices to fit these practices into their adjustment plans.

HUTCHINSON ON PRICE SUPPORTS: Speaking recently about the place of farm price supports in the national economy, Assistant Secretary of Agriculture Knox T. Hutchinson said:

"The American people have accepted the philosophy that if agriculture produced abundantly for the needs of the Nation, farmers should not be left completely to the mercy of forces beyond their control...In the best interests of the entire Nation's economy, the people in agriculture must have the opportunity to earn a fair income....."

"Price supports do not guarantee income to farmers, any more than our minimum wage laws guarantee income to the workers out of a job, or to those who decline to work.

"Farmers are willing to earn what they get. But sometimes they don't get what they earn. That's all they ask today - assurance of the opportunity to get what they earn. We need to assure diligent farmers the opportunity of achieving an income that would bring them closer to the goal of equality with other groups"

"The farmer has certain fundamental responsibilities to the entire public. One is to take proper care of his soil. Another is to work with his neighbors in keeping supplies reasonably in balance with demand.

"In return for price support, we believe the farmer is willing to accept those responsibilities."

DUST STORMS STRESS CONSERVATION NEEDS: How serious have been the recent dust storms blowing up in the southern wheat fields of the western Great Plains?

J. E. Kasper, chairman of the State Production and Marketing Committee, said this week that field reports show drought, high winds, and insects have already taken a toll of grain crops in rain-deficient areas. Farmers in the affected States - northwestern Texas, western Oklahoma, southwestern Kansas, and parts of New Mexico and eastern Colorado - have wondered: Will the Dust Bowl black blizzards of the early thirties be repeated?

Early in April, dry, windy conditions caused general dust storms - light in some places, severe in others. Through the western sections of the winter-wheat belt, wind gusts up to 80 miles an hour were reported. Sand piled up against farm fences. Dry topsoil whirled away in great clouds of dust, at times blotting out the sun, slowing up traffic on the highways.

Green bugs and brown mites also plagued wheat farmers in some sections. Deficient topsoil moisture delayed soil preparation and planting. Ranges dried up, and

spring growth of grass was slow. Snow surveys, indicating irrigation water prospects for States in the drought area, showed "not enough water for comfort."

By April 1, prospects for the winter wheat crop in the drought-ridden area had declined appreciably below earlier forecasts. In Texas, indications were for a winter wheat crop of less than 25 million bushels - down 43 million from December reports. In Oklahoma, the crop was forecast at 55 million bushels, down 24 million. In New Mexico, indications were for a wheat crop of about 2 million bushels, instead of the earlier predicted 5 million. The Kansas crop, at 180 million, was down 27 million from December reports; Colorado's crop of 45 million bushels was down about 8 million.

Mid-April showers brought some relief to parched lands of the southern Great Plains but reports indicate that much damage had already been done.

Mr. Kasper was quick to point out that Government programs such as the Agricultural Conservation Program take on new meaning in the light of lost crops and wind-eroded land.

The chairman raises the question: Will this spring's dust storms - severe in some areas - convince farmers that they'd best speed up their efforts to adopt systems of farming that will store up moisture and hold down the soil if their land is to stay "down on the farm"?

Always adapt our suggested news releases to fit the situation in your county, eliminate those not particularly of interest to farmers in your area, and add local items of interest.

